



Roquiah Sakhawat Hossain (1880-1932) litterateur, educationist, and social reformer, who played a pioneering role in awakening Muslim women, was born on 9 December 1880 into a landed family of Palraband in Rangpur.




Shamsunnahar Mahmud (1908-1964) writer and educationist, was born at Guthuma village in Feni district. She was a leader of Islamic feminism in Bengal after the death of Roquiah Sakhawat Hossain. Her career began as she taught the Bengali language at Lady Brabourne College.




Sufia Kamal (1911-1999) was a poet, writer, organiser, feminist and activist. She was born in to a conservative Muslim family in Barisal. She is one of the most widely recognised cultural personalities in Bangladesh.




Nurjahan Begum was born on June 4, 1925. Her father Mohammad Nasiruddin, was a renowned journalist and editor of the monthly Saogat. Nurjahan Begum, editor of Begum magazine, began her career in the 1940s. Journalism, activism, social work -- she has done it all.



Firoza Begum started her career in 1960s. She is one of the pioneering Nazrul Sangeet singers in the country who popularised the genre in the whole South Asia.



Sayedra Khanam (born in 1937) is a pioneering woman photographer of the country. When Khanam started her photographic journey, society was not so friendly towards women stepping out of the home. Observing her passion for photography, Satyajit Ray praised her and said, "Women of our countries usually do not want to take up this profession." She has won several international awards as well as worked as a Press Photographer for the women's magazine, "Begum".



CONNECTING GIRLS, INSPIRING FUTURES



PHOTO: TASLIMA AKHTER

Ferdousi Priyobhashini

Sculptor & Birangana

"As a Birangana (war heroine), I firmly believe that the women who sacrificed everything for the sake of the country's independence in 1971 have only one wish to put forth; and that is all the women will live happily and stand upright with self esteem in an independent Bangladesh. "Better it will be, when there will be no need to observe the day. The patriarchal outlook must be forsaken to achieve that goal. We should never forget the timeless verse 'Bishwa ja kichhu mohan sristi chiro kolyankor, Ordhek taar koriachhey nari ordhek taar nor' by the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. "We have to learn to protest any oppression. This year's theme -- 'Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures' -- of International Women's Day conveys such message. "The government must recognise and honour the contributions of Biranganas of 1971. Recognition is a matter of internal emotions. We will be proud and responsibly work for the country. Though there is a list of Freedom Fighters, no list of Biranganas exists. The image of Bangladesh will rather brighten if their contributions are recognised."

"A Tagore excerpt, 'Apon bhagyoi koribarey keno nahi dibey odhikar', always inspires me. The Pakistani cronies -- rajakar, al badr and al shams -- who didn't want the creation of Bangladesh, somehow try to demean our contributions. I, as a representative of all the Biranganas, want the trial of war criminals so that the pain of these unsung women are healed somewhat," -- Ferdousi Priyobhashini.

Asked if she feels differently, being a female filmmaker, Nargis says just like her male counterparts she makes movies with the collaboration of a lot of people. If all women unite, a lot can be achieved, Nargis asserted.

Nargis Akter

Filmmaker

Nargis Akter has cemented her place as one of the leading filmmakers in the country. Her debut effort "Meghla Akash" brought much acclaim for her, paving way for consecutive successful productions -- "Char Shotiner Ghor", "Megher Kole Roud", "Obujh Bou". She has also just finished shooting for the movie "Putro Jokhon Poishawala".

Women should be allowed freedom in accordance with their needs, Nargis said, but added that a woman smoking cigarettes does not represent emancipation. A woman is a mother who also needs to bear responsibility for many things, she added.



PHOTO COURTESY: TUNIN HOSSAIN

Shahnewaz Cacoly

TV Play & Film director

Shahnewaz Cacoly claimed her position in the limelight by directing Anisul Hoque's "Onek Kartik, Onek Ogrohayon". Other notable works by the director include "Hamar Lahu", "Sang Olipur", "Ujan Ponthe" and "Haat-taan".

Cacoly usually directs plays that offer something unique -- with all of her works so far bringing home great acclaims. She graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University and also has experience as an art director in movies. "Jolrong" and "Uttorer Shur" are two films that she directed, that are awaiting release. Cacoly sees the observance of the Women's Day as a positive trend, saying that it is a good thing that at least a day is taken to recognise women's contributions. However, the director adds that urban women have progressed much further than rural women, giving rise to the importance of all women achieving proper education. Asked if women are still shackled, Cacoly says it is still true for women in villages. They are confined to their families and children. However, Cacoly prefers considering women as human beings, rather than calling them by their sex. She also observed that even in this age, a family gives its consent to a boy much more easily than a girl's demands. Saying that women's emancipation is essential



By Shah Alam Shazu

Taslina Akhter Lima

Photographer

Photographer Taslima Akhter Lima's camera has focused on garment workers for years now. As a photographer and a citizen of Bangladesh, she sees her work as both a personal agenda and a civic duty. "Women in the Ready-made Garment (RMG) sector have played an important role in putting the Bangladesh economy on the fast lane; yet they are underprivileged. They toil from dawn to dusk on minimum wages," says Lima. She has spent over four years capturing the workers' movement for the photo story. "The Life and Struggle of Garment Workers". The photo story, along with an interview, was published in The New York Times last year.

Lima also worked on a single mother during her six-week course on photography and human rights at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. The course was a part of a Magnum Foundation scholarship that she won in 2010. During her work on a single mother she found that the agony and emotional demands are quite similar in societies -- New York and Dhaka -- that are seemingly poles apart. "May be people won't ask too many questions about remaining single in New York. May be they will ask questions here in Dhaka. But as far as I have observed, remaining single for a woman is a painful experience both in Dhaka and in New York," says Lima. Gathering those impressions, she is working on such issues at present.



By Jamil Mahmud

Sarah Abedin

Makeup Artist

Sarah Abedin has been working as a makeup artist for three years now and is currently a staff member at Rtv. She is also carrying out her studies at the Siddheswari Degree College. Her father and sister are also makeup artists, while her maternal uncle Faruk is a respected senior makeup artist. It is her relatives' works that inspired Sarah Abedin to choose this profession. Sarah considers her job as a good profession and wishes to be a famous makeup artist in the future. She is a strong believer in women's emancipation, saying that women would have to be confined within four walls if they were denied freedom. Sarah pressed for all women to unite, adding that victory can be achieved in every field if women decide to be organised. Snubbing out claims that media is not a good place for women, Sarah called on other women to join the media. Asked how she views Women's Day, Sarah said that a single day's observance would not mean anything unless the day's ideals are



By Shah Alam Shazu

Momena Jalil

Photographer

In 2007, the government opened the first ever women's prison of the country in Kashempur Central Jail, Gazipur. It was a rare chance for photographer Momena Jalil to attend the inaugural. Later, her work on the inmates was exhibited at Chobi Mela V. Momena had 10 minutes inside the prison and within this time what she experienced was "what a lifetime couldn't teach her". On the eve of International Women's Day, Momena shared that experience and other feminist issues as a photographer. "It was a strange feeling -- losing one's freedom and the right to live a life one is granted," says Momena. "We had 10 minutes and the guards were rushing us. They were some 21 women, and with some of them were children who were free but had nowhere to go, so they stayed with their mothers in captivity."

Although Momena worked on the inmates on a special occasion, her main field of interest (in photography) is environment. She loves to work on experimental projects regarding the issue. She did an experimental work -- portrait photography on Dholaikhal, and another on the morgue of Dhaka Medical Hospital. Both were much appreciated. Momena shares that she considers herself as a privileged and independent individual. So when



By Jamil Mahmud

Beauty--much more than skin deep



PHOTO COURTESY: PERSONA

The beauty industry, once shrouded in obscurity, nowadays draws talents in great numbers.

SADYA AFREEN MALICK
The beauty salon sector in Bangladesh is booming, says Tahia, assistant manager of a renowned salon for the last six years. Smartly turned out in a bright suit, she is a picture of confidence as she talks about the prospects for beauticians and the trade in Bangladesh. "While I was looking over the long list of skincare treatments available at the salon, I struck up a conversation with Sobha from Mymensingh who typifies the beauty professional. "When I joined the salon I hardly knew anything about the industry. I was inept and intimidated -- you are after all taking care of something that is extremely personal and important. But soon I was trained and gradually learnt the ropes of the profession. I have been working for about eight years and my work has given me confidence, self-respect and numerous opportunities. It pays well through a handsome salary and a yearly bonus -- enough to help me buy a small plot of land. I would say it has provided me security and economic freedom."

Another beautician, Korobi from Tangail, says, "It is a fulfilling profession as one brings out the latent beauty in every woman. It feels really great. I never thought I would do it professionally, but here I am. Moreover, I don't feel overworked as in many other jobs because 99 percent of the workforce is women and there is an underlying sense of mutual respect and understanding." Looking around at the busy team of smiling beauticians, there's little doubt that this profession has nurtured a whole new group of independent and confident working women. The women in turn have worked hard to give the profession credibility and a permanent home in the city as well as in the suburbs.

International Women's Day is an occasion for celebration for many women in the beauty business. "We have come out of our cocoon in which we were trapped," says Shubhra, who has been a beautician for the last eight years. However, she has a reservation: "If men, then we are on equal terms with them, indeed how come we have reserved seats in buses or in parliament? Where is the equality? Women are more hard-working than men and so we feel we should get our due." Another beautician, Korobi from Tangail, says, "It is a fulfilling profession as one brings out the latent beauty in every woman. It feels really great. I never thought I would do it professionally, but here I am. Moreover, I don't feel overworked as in many other jobs because 99 percent of the workforce is women and there is an underlying sense of mutual respect and understanding." Looking around at the busy team of smiling beauticians, there's little doubt that this profession has nurtured a whole new group of independent and confident working women. The women in turn have worked hard to give the profession credibility and a permanent home in the city as well as in the suburbs.

Nari : BRAC's musical homage to women

Non-government organisation BRAC is releasing a musical album, featuring members of its Adolescent Development Programme. Containing nine tracks, the album is a collaboration of top musicians of the country, including Shayan ChowdhuryArnob, Habib Wahid, Bappa Mazumder, Balam, Fahmida Nabi, Kona and Labik Kamal Gaurav. The album, titled "Nari", is being released today on the occasion of International Women's Day, at 5pm at Cafe 63, Bailey Road, Dhaka. Every song on the album relates the slogan, "Connecting girls, inspiring the future", the theme of this year's celebration, according to a press release. The Founder and Chairman of BRAC, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, in a recent speech re-affirmed that his organisation would continue working on women's empowerment. On the album, singer Balam said, "It was a great opportunity working on this project with the girls. I hope they benefited from the experience of working in a recording studio." Bappa added, "The album reflects the talent of these young girls. I feel privileged to be a part of this initiative."

All major distributors and outlets of Aarong will sell the album across the country. The young women of the Adolescent Development Programme were featured in the reality TV shows -- "Naache Gaane Number One" in 2009 and "Meghe Dhaka Tara" in 2011. The Adolescent Development Programme started in 1993, developed out of BRAC's school for older children.

ATN BANGLA	07:45	Drama Serial: Mayer Doa	
11:20	Business and Finance	Peribahan	
12:10	Bangla Feature Film	Style & Fashion	
06:15	Amra Korbo Joy	11:55	Drama
08:00	Drama Serial: Not Out	10:02	Bangla Feature Film
11:00	Drama: Akash Buna	05:30	Amazing Animals
	Shwapno	06:30	Ogorjatri
		09:00	Khola Mon
		11:00	Arshinagar
			Z Studio
		03:40	Dirty Pretty Things
		05:45	A View From the Top
		07:40	The Avenging Eagle
		09:40	My Bollywood Bride
		11:45	Stick it
			HBO
		03:40	Speedy Singhs
		05:55	Jonah Hex
		07:40	Cats & Dogs: The
		09:00	Revenge of Kitty Galore
		09:30	Open Water
		11:20	2 Fast 2 Furious

abc radio FM 89.2	12:00	My Time	
06:00	Bhorer Janjaly	01:00	No Tension
09:00	Mukhoro Johnny	04:00	Dhaka Calling
12:00	Banan Bannany	09:30	Night Rider
03:00	Duranto Bhalley		RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
05:00	Shondhata	06:00	Green FM
07:00	Shyer Maya	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
09:00	Raki or Kachey	12:30	Keddy Kaddy
11:00	Golper Shesh Nei	04:00	U Turn
Radio Foorti		07:00	Tobey Tu Hok
07:30	Heli Dhaka	10:00	Rock the Station
10:00	Morning Express	12:00	Hutum Pechu

Nokhetro Nari
On Boishakhi TV
xat 08:00pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Bijori Barkatullah, Tamim Sweeney & Dipa Khondokar

Stick It
On Z Studio
at 11:45pm
Genre: Drama/Comedy
Cast: Missey Peregrym, Jeff Bridges

Bipashar Othi
On BANGLAVISION
at 09:05pm
Talk Show
Guest: Nima Rahman

ETV	11:30	Ekushey-e-Business	11:30	Necessary Roughness
05:40	Sports Plus	07:30	Desperate Housewives	
07:50	Drama	09:30	Supernatural	
09:30	Ekushey-e-Chokh	10:30	Unforgettable	
10:10	Tebuo Badhon	11:30	The Big Bang Theory	
Boishakhi TV			National Geographic Channel	
05:30	Muktijudhey Nari	02:30	India	
08:00	Nokhetro Nari	03:30	Seconds from Disaster	
09:10	Chonodhey Taley	08:30	Man Eater Manhunt	
11:00	Rup-rupantar	09:30	Classified	
BANGLAVISION			Discovery Channel	
11:05	Shokal Belar Roddur	02:30	Man Vs. Wild	
02:20	Cinehit	08:30	Wildest India	
05:20	Porikka-Prostuti	10:30	Dual Survival	
06:05	Shyamol Bangla	11:30	Tattoo Hunter	
09:05	Bipashar Othi		BBC World	
Rtv			BBC World News	
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	03:30	HARD talk	
05:00	Cinema R Gaan	07:00	Impact Asia with Mihal Husain	
05:20	Jadur Deshey	10:00	The Hub with Nik Gowling	
11:30	Drama: Shwarrngo	04:30	Durpath	
12:05	Music Fest	11:45	Sport Today	
04:30	Durpath		Star World	

ATN BANGLA	08:40pm	Chand Prol	09:30pm	Dhan Shaktik
		Amashoyya		GaanBoishakhi TV
09:20pm	Motijheel CA	08:00pm	Fourth Class Society	
09:35pm	Shokal Shondhya		BANGLAVISION	
	Raat	08:15pm	No Problem	
		08:30pm	Desh TV	
		08:15pm	Sat Rahon	
		08:15pm	Maasranga Television	
		09:30pm	Dhair Galpo	

ETV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.	News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm.
11:30	News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
	Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on 24 Bangla channels).	News (English) at 6:00pm
	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:20 pm, 12:30 pm.	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
	ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 4:00 am.
	NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 12:30pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm.	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm.

ATN BANGLA	12:30am	Lead News	BANGLAVISION	11:25pm	talk of the Week
12:30pm	Tanika Kothon	07:40pm	Tankalap		
07:40pm	Shwapno Our Din	07:40pm	Our Democracy		
12:30pm	Ei Shonoy	10:30pm	Desh E Golpo		
10:50pm	Reporters Diary	07:30pm	Prime Issue		
12:00am	Zero Hour				